THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, July 6, 1807.

PERSIAN SOLDIERS.

[From Waring's Tour to Sheeraz.]

A Persian soldier, armed cap-a-pie, is of all figures the most ridiculous. It is really laughable to see how they encumber themselves with weapons of defence: their horses groan under the weight of their arms. These consist of a pair of pistols in their holsters, a single one slung in their waist, a carbine, or a long Turkish gun, a sword, a dagger, and an immense long spear; for all these fire-arms they have separate ramrods tied about their persons, powder horns for loading, others for priming, and a variety of cartouch-boxes, filled with different sized cartridges.

If they are advancing towards you, they may be heard a long way off. I should really suppose that their saddle and arms would weigh about eighty pounds, an enormous addition to the horse's burthen. Yet they consider themselves as light armed troops, ridiculing the Turkish cavalry, who, they say, can take care of little else than their big boots and cap. The arms of the Persians are very good, particularly their swords, which are highly prized by the Turks. They are full of jouhur, or what is called damask; which, however, does not express the meaning of the word, for the jouhur is inherent in the steel. Tavernier says that none but Golconda steel can be damasked; but in this he is mistaken, as the Khorasan swords are more valuable than any others, the blade often alone costing twenty or thirty guineas.

My enquiries to ascertain the regular military force of the Persian empire proved very unsatisfactory; indeed, I met with few who possessed any information on this subject.

All the troops in Persia are the immediate servants of the king. Some of the principal chans are *sahibi tahefus*, which signifies, that they belong to particular tribes, of which they are considered to be the head. These tribes are usually in the king's service; but these chiefs are not feudatories, all of them being regularly paid, and liable to be dismissed at the discretion of government. These troops are generally quartered in the district to which they belong; but to insure their obedience to the king's commands, either their chief or his son is usually kept at court.

The military force of Persia consists chiefly of cavalry: and it is only when they are going against a fort that they make use of infantry. The troops are clothed, furnished with horses, arms, &c. at the expence of the king: and the pay which they receive is from ten to fifteen toomans a year; in addition to this, they are supplied with suroosat, an allowance of barley and straw for their horses, and wheat, rice, and butter for themselves. They receive also something under the head of inam, a present; but this I believe to be very uncertain. This pay, however, is very great, for when we consider the value of money in Persia (which I look upon to be four or five times greater than in England), and the supplies which they receive, it will appear that their yearly pay amounts to fifty or sixty guineas.

This force is divided into regiments of 1000 men, commanded by a membashee: then into hundreds, over whom is a yoozbashee; and then into tens, under an ounbashee; these officers receive regular pay from the king. The khan commands the whole; and it depends upon the will of the king to what number it shall amount. Whenever a body of men is enlisted into the king's service, their own names, and that of their father's, and their ages, &c. are written down in a general muster-roll. Should any one of them die, information is immediately given to the officer who keeps the rolls; and it would be with extreme difficulty, and much hazard, that a chief could keep a smaller number of men than his prescribed quota. If he dismissed any of the original number, he would be instantly detected, by their making a complaint to the king; and if he delayed filling up the vacancies caused by deaths, the umbardar, or officer who supplies the troops with provisions, would discover the imposition. Nor can the commander keep back any of their pay, for it would be immediately known to the troops, who would either depose him, or forward a representation to the king.

The troops are paid once a year, sometimes every three months; but as they are supplied with most of the things they require, and are furnished with houses when abroad, they do not suffer much from the length of their arrears.

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The troops which I saw appeared to be wholly undisciplined, seldom going through any other manœuvre than charging in a promiscuous heap, and halting in detached bodies of four or five, often at the distance of many yards, in every direction from each other. They then amused themselves with skirmishing with each other; but the manœuvre they commonly practised was galloping with full speed, stopping their horses with a sudden jerk, which nearly threw them backwards, then turning round on their saddle, and discharging their carbine at their supposed adversary.

If we were to attend to the natural prejudices of the Persians, we should entertain no unfavourable opinion of the valour and discipline of their troops; but if we estimate their courage by the resistance which they make against victorious troops, or by the losses they sustain, I fear that they will greatly resemble the armies of the Italian states, who fought whole days without losing a single man.

As the infantry are seldom employed in any kind of service, they are, I suppose, much worse than the Persian cavalry. There was an instance some time ago at Bushire which may serve as a specimen of their proficiency in military affairs. A salute was to be fired, and as the guns were not shotted, they conceived that they might discharge them without any danger to the people who were crowded about them. They fired the guns, and several persons were killed on the spot.

The infantry are generally employed at sieges, where it is their business to fire off a piece of cannon once an hour or so; and as long as they hit the wall, they are considered to be well qualified for effecting a breach. If there are infantry and guns, a body of bildars (pioneers) accompanies the army; but, as I have before remarked, the services of the infantry are seldom required.

In drawing out the lines of their camp, posting centries, and sending out picquets, they imitate the armies of European states; their camp, however, generally forms a circle.

The Persians have, in general, been successful in their wars against the Turks, and in their irruptions into India; and, in consequence, they are impressed with very ridiculous notions of the superiority of their arms. They conceive it impossible for infantry to resist their charge; if it be like what I saw them practise, nothing could be more easy; but, happily for them, they are not likely to be opposed to the steady discipline and determined bravery of European troops.

When the king puts himself at the head of his army, the different sur-kurdus (chieftains) are ordered to assemble their troops; and the king, having pledges in his hands for the fidelity of his soldiers, is certain of having an army of 50 or 60,000 men in a few days. Besides these troops, there is ano-

ther body called gholam shasees (slaves of the king), and who are considered to be the choicest troops in the empire. They have charge of the king's person, receive greater pay, and are clothed in a more expensive manner than the regular cavalry.

These may be about 20,000, but the flower of this corps is formed into a body of about 4000, who are distinguished by the excessive richness of their dress, and the insolence of their behaviour.

The length of the Persian marches is surprising; they think nothing of 40 or 50 miles a day: and it is a circumstance well known, that they have, on urgent occasions, marched at the rate of 70 miles for three days together. They march of course without baggage, but the usual rate that caravans travel in Persia is not less than 35 miles a day.

THE RING,

A Moral Tale.

By the Authoress of the Occasional Essays.

(Continued from Page 510.*)*

TRUMAN's letter soon reached the earl, who immediately fled on the pinions of love to the feet of his beauteous mistress, where, rapturously seizing her hand, passion got the better of politeness, having the audacity to add to a fervent pressure, a warmly impassioned kiss. Here we do not pretend altogether to defend his lordship; the act was, undoubtedly, most presumptuously daring! but not being a competent judge of these matters, we shall leave the point to the decision of the gentlemen, as—how they would have acted, had they been in his lordship's place? We acknowledge our business is simply to relate facts as they occurred, which are now coming slap dash so thick one upon another, as will put us all in a bustle to get through them; and the next fact is—the lady blushed so deeply, and became so extremely agitated, that it added boldness to his former temerity, for interpreting such effects in his favour, presumption took another flight, tenderly whispering in her ear—"Oh! my dear Miss Truman, may I flatter myself I have some little interest in your heart?"

Now though a woman is universally allowed to be the most talkative creature in nature, and that many a husband—poor man!—has been compelled to fly from his own house, 'till his wife's larum has run down; yet when the maggot takes her, she can be as sullen and silent as you please. This is another fact we have to record on the present occasion: one would have supposed

posed this piece of divinity, that occasioned such perturbation in his lordship's breast, had lost her hearing, or the faculty of speech; for it was not 'till after repeatedly pressing her to speak but one word to make him happy, that she faintly articulated—"I hope, my lord, duty will compel me to obey my father, as a daughter should;" and with this answer his lordship was compelled also to content himself; nor would the perverse jade, even to the last, absolutely *confess* a mutual flame. However she permitted his visits, and the world gave him out not only a declared but accepted lover; and if he would take every opportunity to speak of his passion, how could she help it? she could only preserve that true feminine decorum that never throws a woman off her guard, for though rapidly approaching to an intimacy with the circles of rank and fashion, she had not taken up a diploma to practice as yet. She could not have reproved a daring lover, whose transports (the *pure* effects of genuine love, poor dear creature!) might happen to carry him a little too far, with simply a pat of her fan on his insolent cheek, accompanied with a coquettish leer, between a smile and a frown, daring him to the attack. No! she would have summoned to her aid the silent blush of offended modesty, that would have struck the *veriest* libertine dumb; taught him to feel his own baseness, as well as insignificance, and awed him into respect and esteem! reserving to herself the punishment of never permitting, (whatever might be his remorse, or apparent contrition) an opportunity to offend a *second time.*

Methinks now I hear a miss of sixteen, just escaped from a boarding school, exclaim, with great petulence—"Mercy on me! what is this foolish woman about? why she makes out her heroine a mere simpleton, that stands speechless like an ideot, and does nothing but blush! when all that sort of nonsense betrays only want of breeding, and has been exploded long ago. Now, for my part, I like a smart lively young fellow, that is not easily *dashed.* Mama is a monstrous clever woman, and quite the gentlewoman, though papa keeps a shop; we have a world of company, entirely to sport me off to the best advantage. We engross all the beaus, and Mama says I must dress smart, and talk smart, to draw their attention, and to flirt with them all, without coming to the point; for, like a *prudent* woman, as she is, she says if a coach and four should not carry me off, I can but take up with an attorney or an apothecary at last. But if the lady will not speak, the gentleman must; I long to have a sample of his lordship's eloquence, for nothing is so entertaining as love scenes!"

The authoress is extremely sorry to disappoint any young lady; but really having no *new* coinage to offer on the subject, the currency being much the same for some hundred years back; she therefore refers the curious to the circulating libra-

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ries, where half the novels extant abound in nothing else. But whatever his lordship did say, this she can aver, he spoke to the *purpose*. Richard says—" A little flattery sometimes does well," and probably his lordship might, at times, have " whispered soft nonsense in the fair one's ear;" as every man, from the prince to the peasant, keeps so large a stock of this commodity in hand, that it seldom gets entirely exhausted, 'till *after marriage*.

Matters were now so much *en train*, that the marriage began to be publicly talked of; several of the earl's noble relatives had paid their personal compliments to the intended bride, assuring her of her entire approbation and esteem, particularly Lord Woodly, the earl's uncle, who had been an affectionate guardian, and to whom the settlements were left, as Truman and his lordship should agree; with this stipulation, that the terms should be as liberal as his estate would admit, without any immediate enquiry into the fortune of the lady; that point to be made entirely convenient to her father, not supposing him the man of property he really was, Truman never having thrown out any hints on that head, determined his daughter should be loved for herself alone. It was known she was an only child, that her father must have a handsome fortune, though it might not suit him to part from it 'till after his death; therefore every thing on that score was to be made easy to himself.

But how agreeably surprized was Lord Woodly, when the good gentleman proposed 100,000l. *down*, and the residue of his fortune, consisting of an estate in the West Indies, that netted above two thousand yearly, and was still improveable, some valuable purchases in England, together with a large stock of funded property (for he lived greatly within his income) that should be made over to her at his decease: but for her sole and *separate* use, during life. Afterwards to devolve to the *younger* branches of the marriage, the heir being provided for by right of inheritance. But in case of want of issue, to revert back to such and such branches of his own family, as should be named.

Every thing being settled agreeably to all parties, and our heroine secured in a handsome jointure, with a very liberal allowance for pin money, the lawyers were set to work. Milliners and mantua-makers too had their hands full of business: and Mr. Brilliant, the jeweller, was sent for to new-set the late Countess Grandfield's (the earl's mother) diamonds, to be presented to the bride, to which his lordship bespoke some handsome additions, as a present immediately to herself. His mother's diamonds, being mostly *family* jewels, which had been worn by all the Lady Grandfield's for centuries past, were held in reserve, and only appropriate to the countess during the life of her lord.

Every thing being ready, it only remained for the lady to name the day. This she, under one pretence or another, contrived to procrastinate, not from the smallest degree of prudery, but from a native delicacy, that impulsively withheld her from *flying* into a man's arms as soon as they were open to receive her, though that man was the object of her love. Finding her so refractory, her father began to interfere, and it was left to him to fix the day, which he appointed for that day month. Lady Gertrude and the honourable Miss Bloomly, a cousin of the earl's, were selected as bride maids, and Lord Woodly insisted on the honour of giving her away.

These important points settled, the earl gave orders for having every thing prepared to celebrate the nuptials with the greatest splendour and magnificence, that the world, he said, might witness his happiness in the possession of such a treasure; but to this the lady put so positive a negative, that his lordship was quite disconcerted, and as nothing could conquer her repugnance to a public wedding, her father, at last, prayed for indulgence, saying—"Come, my lord, permit her to rule this one day, and you shall rule her ever after, as it will then be her duty to *obey*."

The lady requested that the ceremony might be performed in the most private manner, at her father's house, with no other witnesses than their common friends, with the presence of Mrs. Love, whom she should ever regard as a mother; requesting too that no gentleman might be present, Mr. Merit excepted.

"Yes, my dear," replied her father, "one more, the good Doctor Saintly, who acted as a father to my child, when her own was absent. I am sure he will be pleased with the compliment, and I conceive it only a respect due to solicit the solemn benediction from the worthy man, whose care of thy infant state we can never sufficiently acknowledge."

This point neither of the parties could possibly object to: but Lord Grandfield observed there was still one to whom respect was due from all, whom it was his particular request might not be treated with slight, or neglect, on this important, as well as happy occasion; one whose character he venerated, and whose virtues ranked him in the first class of virtuous men, and that one was the worthy Mr. Robert Truman, the grandfather of his lovely bride.

Such a compliment could not fail to please both father and daughter, more particularly coming from a man of such exalted rank; but we have before observed that his lordship, however enobled by birth, was more so by excellence; he was not too great to be good, nor so *mean* as to be proud. He loved virtue, and he loved it for her own sake.

The day before the irrevokable vows were pledged, the earl, Lord Woodly, Lady Gertrude, the honourable Miss Bloomly,

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and Merit, met at dinner at Truman's house; that gentleman's carriage had been dispatched early in the morning for the conveyance of the good Dr. Saintly, the honest grocer, and Mrs. Love, but, from a slight accident, the trio did not arrive 'till the evening. On their entrance, the noble personages arose, and saluted them with great respect. To the earl they were no strangers, he received them as old friends; kindly saluted Mrs. Love, thanked the rector for his attention, and going up to old Truman, said, cordially taking his hand—" Though last, not least in love."

" Welcome my worthy friend, you now behold me the happiest of my sex! and hope the present, general joy, meets your approbation?"

" Why, yes, my lord, you see I am come; willing to take one smack more from the sweet lips of Maria Truman, not knowing how an old fool may be able to come on when your lordship has made her a countess."

The company smiled, and his lordship assured him he should kiss the countess as often as he pleased, without raising the smallest symptom of jealousy in his bosom.

The evening passed in the greatest harmony; but when the company returned to the drawing-room after supper, Truman missed his father, and going out to enquire for him, Cudjoe said the old gentleman was sitting very composedly, smoking his pipe by the chimney corner, in the servants' hall, from whence they had all retired out of respect, saying " he could not go to bed without his *whiff*, and would not offend the gentry."

Truman left him to his choice, and as he was old, and unused to late hours, his affectionate son attended him to his chamber, where he left him to that calm repose, which ever awaits a spotless conscience.

(To be continued)

SKETCHES *of* CONSTANTINOPLE.

(Concluded from Page 505.)

GALATA resembles Pera in many respects: great numbers of Franks resided also in that suburb, but every thing there has more of an oriental air. Both suburbs are sometimes comprehended under the general name of Pera, which signifies, the place on the other side of the harbour; or sometimes they are denominated, after the larger of the two, Galata. The streets of Galata are much more narrow and crooked; and such is the variety of architecture, that not the least symmetry or uniformity is to be found among the houses. The whole

physiognomy of the place demonstrates, like almost all the towns of the Levant, the want of geometrical taste among the orientals. To an European, Galata looks more like a labyrinth than a town; he every where discovers a deficiency of the principal requisites of beauty, spaciousness and regularity, and in many parts the houses have scarcely the appearance of barracks.

The place is situated partly on an eminence and partly in the plain, so that they are obliged to go continually up and down hill. It is surrounded with walls and towers erected at the time of the Genoese sovereignty, and here and there the relics of gates may still be perceived. On one of the highest spots, and almost in the centre of the town, is a remarkable tower, generally known by the name of the tower of Anastasis, from the top of which there is a most enchanting prospect toward the east and south. The stranger is particularly struck here with the catholic churches and convents, and the many fire-proof warehouses and shops of massive free-stone, with no more windows than are absolutely indispensable, and with doors lined with plates of iron. In this part of the town Turks and Christians live intermingled.

I shall not detain the reader with the description of the pleasures of an excursion by water to visit Skutari, or of the magnificent prospects presented by the city on the right, and the opposite suburbs with their environs on the left, during the passage. Constantinople, and all that is comprehended under this general name, has a situation with which the charming Naples and the proud amphitheatre of Genoa cannot sustain a comparison.

We soon reached the promontory of Topana; and opposite to us on the right lay the seraglio, with its white palaces, decorated in the eastern style, and which being seen between groves of cypresses, produces a most exquisite effect. The numerous parts of the great picture of the most extensive of the Asiatic suburbs now unfolded themselves more and more; for in the distance we could already distinguish the minarets and mosques of Skutari, could see the crescents glistening, and perceive the streets crossing each other like labyrinths. On a nearer approach, another object, in the midst of the sea, fixed my attention.

At the entrance of the channel into the White Sea, or sea of Marmara, on an immense mass of stone, in the midst of the waves, stands a tower, which, after an ancient and incorrect tradition, still bears the name of Leander's Tower. It is said that here the lover, inflamed with passion, swam from one quarter of the world to another, and met with his death in the waves. The Hellespont has been confounded with the Bosphorus, and

the catastrophe occasioned by the former has been ascribed to the latter.

Skutari is only a suburb, and the number of its inhabitants was stated to me at 70,000. Every one knows how much dependance ought to be placed on such general data; but certainly all its extensive quarters and numerous streets are populous in the highest degree. Among the suburbs of Constantinople, if that term may be applied to large towns situated in the vicinity of the metropolis, Skutari, doubtless, occupies the first place; for no other is equal to it in extent, and in population it far surpasses them all.

The situation of Skutari bears a great resemblance to that of the capital. It is composed of alternate hill and dale; the rows of houses and mosques rise gradually one above another, and afford the most picturesque prospects. Between the habitations we behold the variegated verdure of lofty trees grouped in the most pleasing manner, and in the back ground appear still higher hills, interspersed with clumps of trees and Turkish tomb-stones, which command a view of the whole subjacent city.

On these hills is situated a spot which I shall never forget. It is, perhaps, the highest station on the whole Bosphorus, and no other affords such a distant view. Constantinople, with the seraglio, lying exactly opposite, appears there in its whole majestic extent, and no less magnificent is the prospect of the opposite peninsula of Topana, Galata, and Pera. To the right the channel presents a boundless perspective. Never do I remember to have enjoyed a view which, both in the whole and in its parts, made so deep an impression upon my mind as that from the hills of Skutari.

My eye ranged over the sea, and along the shores of both continents, every where decorated with a thousand objects on which it could repose with delight, and forming a whole so infinitely grand, that we might imagine ourselves transported to the celestial regions. Here glistened the nearest part of the channel, and there lay the capacious and busy harbour, the end of which the eye could scarcely discern. Here the sea dashed against the tower of Leander, there the arched horizon descended to the water. In the distant back ground of the sea side, towards the south, appeared masts and sails of all sizes, as if placed upon high mountains, and nearer, ships of all sorts and forms sailed to and fro.

Here, between and above the thick forest of masts of the vessels, partly in motion, partly at anchor in the harbour, towers the immense city of Constantinople on its picturesque hills, with its glistening mosques and the pinnacles of its numerous minarets; there on the opposite side the hills of the peninsula, covered with houses, present themselves.

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There behind the city and the harbour extend ranges of blue hills, belonging to the European continent; yonder, on both sides of the channel, as far as the eye can reach, it discovers delightful villas and smiling fields. Here, on either side of the suburb, lay the gardens of the grand signior; there rose a multitude of summer pavilions in the oriental style, a style that appears strange to an European eye.

Thus to the east and to the west, to the north and to the south, the spectator is presented with the most beautiful scenes of nature, in which thousands of objects produce upon the eye an effect like that of harmonious music on the ear, and throws the senses into sweet confusion. Every thing there concurs to form the most enchanting whole.

The north coast of the harbour of Constantinople, together with the opposite southern shore, forms but one extended city, joining Galata and Pera to the east and south, and composing with those suburbs only one grand whole. The north side of the harbour is nevertheless considerably different from the south side, not only with respect to situation but extent. On the latter, the eye discovers no end of streets and houses; on the former, the buildings wind along the shore, and behind them appear uncultivated fields, burial-places, and groves, as far as the eminences which bound the view to the north.

The quarter called Tershana, or the naval arsenal, is pretty extensive, and stretches from Galata along the channel, to a considerable distance. The principal part of the arsenal is seated on the spot where the harbour expands into a bay, and forms a port within a port. A particular portion of this bay is appropriated to the larger vessels, and another to the smaller. Besides the buildings immediately belonging to the construction and equipment of the Turkish navy and the gondolas of the grand signior, this part of Constantinople contains the habitations of all the officers attached to the marine of the Porte. The seamen and marines, who are more licentious and ungovernable than the lowest dregs of the people, likewise reside here in a kind of barracks.

Proceeding westward along the quay, we arrive at the suburb of Topana, which is to the military what Tershana is to the naval force. Its situation is still more agreeable, for it stands upon unequal ground, but principally on an eminence, close to the opening of the channel into the harbour, and directly opposite to the seraglio, which lies to the south. It extends westward nearly to the wharfs, to the east it looks towards Leander's Tower and Skutari, and to the north it adjoins the suburb of Fondakli.

Topana, together with Pera, on which it borders to the northwest, and the still more distant and lofty Galata, forms one of the most magnificent amphitheatres imaginable. All the three

suburbs seem to form but one whole, commencing upon the hills, and descending to the sea-side.

Exactly opposite the seraglio of Constantinople is situated that of Skutari, with its extensive gardens and appurtenances. Proceeding from Skutari by land, and leaving this edifice on the right, we arrive on classic ground, which recals many painful recollections to the mind of the antiquary. Here formerly stood Chalcedon, with its constantly animated road, in which vessels from the north and from the south securely cast anchor, and filled the city with their rich cargoes. Here Grecian taste and ingenuity had erected works for immortality, and here settled the Peloponnesian colony, which, in so short a period, became so flourishing. Nothing now is left but the ruins of those works of antiquity, and the mussulman who haughtily paces between them, and looks down with contempt on superior civilization, is continually removing them, in order to decorate his fountains and his mosques, his tombs and his monuments, with the relics of Grecian antiquity.

In the mean time that the silver poplar, the walnut, the cypress, and the acacia, seem to bathe themselves in the crystal current of a stream that runs between rocks, ruins, and hills, to discharge itself into the White Sea, numerous groups of houses present themselves to the eye. Their busy inhabitants remind us of the activity of the ancient Chalcedonians. On a nearer approach we discover that it is the culture of silk which here employs so many hands, and so exquisitely harmonizes with the delightful climate.

But no pencil can paint, no pen can describe the enchanting scene displayed to the intoxicated eye, on ascending the hill to the left of the village on which stands the great light-house. The continent of Asia here forms a cape which projects to a considerable distance into the sea, and is still denominated the cape of Chalcedon. At the foot of the light-house Sultan Soliman the Second erected a pavilion, composed of several edifices, surrounded with beautiful gardens and plantations of trees, which is called by the Turks Fanari Kiosk.

From the summit of this hill we behold on one side the broad White Sea with its glistening waves, and in the distance the immense city, with its principal suburbs, which even at this distance produce an incomparable effect. On the other side is a wide valley embellished with various eminences, which unfolds to the eye with a freshness that is to be found only in the east, all the beauties of nature which are peculiar to so happy a climate. In the back ground, over thick woods, we discover mountains with numerous villages on their sides, and here and there buildings like fairy castles in the clouds. Beneath his feet the spectator has the most luxuriant vegetation, in its numberless tints and colours, and yonder an ever animated and busy

channel

channel winding like a broad high road through a most delicious country, and gradually appearing narrower, 'till at length it is totally lost to the view.

The harbour of Constantinople, which at the entrance is six hundred paces broad, becomes more and more contracted, and at length terminates in a bending toward the north-south-west, in the road of Kèaghid Khaneh, or Les Eaux Douces, as it is called by the French. At this place the river Lykus empties itself into the harbour. Its breadth is various, but in general about fifty paces. It is formed by the junction of two streams, the Barbysses, which comes from the suburb of Belgrade, and the Zydarus Machleva, which rises towards the north-west.

The Lykus is navigable throughout; but here and there it has shallows, two of which are marked with poles, as signals to mariners. Across the two other rivers there are bridges, over which lies the road from Pera to Adrianople. There are besides several other streams in the vicinity, all of which run through the whole length of the harbour to the sea of Marmara, and contribute not a little to cleanse and purify it.

From the Kèaghid Khaneh one direct road leads to Adrianople, another to Varna, and a third to the Danube. There is no other way by land from Pera to the city than through this quarter, and roads lead from several suburbs on the European side to the canal, which is here separated from the harbour by a streight of great breadth.

On the CUSTOM *of* LIFTING *on* EASTER MONDAY.

To the Editor of the Monthly Magazine.

SIR,

HAVING occasion to go from Liverpool to Chester, on Easter Monday, I crossed at one of the ferries, and performed the journey on foot. As I passed along, I perceived the female villagers eye me with no little curiosity, but conceiving it to be nothing more than usual at the sight of a stranger, or, perhaps, somewhat flattered by female attention, no unpleasant apprehension arose; 'till, at length, a strong party of them, consisting of seven or eight, rushed from a little village, and surrounded me, one of them seizing me by the breast. Alarmed at this, so much like a hue and cry after a thief, I desired to know what was my offence; and in return was informed by the Amazon, who had me still in her grasp, that it was Easter Monday, or Lifting-day. As I had received some little hint of this custom when at Liverpool, and rightly supposed

posed the principal object of all such (at least in modern days), to be the extortion of money, I thought it prudent so to liberate myself, rather than to satisfy my curiosity by a practical experience of the operation.

The next village I had nearly shared a similar fate; but fortunately I was too far advanced ere they could collect in sufficient numbers to commence the attack. As it was past twelve o'clock when I arrived at Chester, I witnessed nothing more on that day, it being confined to the forenoon entirely: but on the morrow my ears were early assailed by the rude clamours of those who were attacking the passengers on every side. Nor were the houses, at least the inns, a sufficient protection; as I had by no means the enviable pleasure to hear, during my breakfast, a far from delicate party enquire if the gentleman was risen, which was answered by my hostess in the negative; thus by a little falsehood securing my safety. The practice is, that if the persons so seized, male or female (as they have each a day), refuse to pay the necessary fine, they are taken by the arms, legs, clothes, or any part, and tossed up and down several times, the last, not unfrequently, suffered to fall with considerable violence: indeed, I am told that serious accidents have been known to occur through it. The precedence of the sex as to the day is, I understand, in some places, where no doubt the original custom is more strictly adhered to, regulated by the superiority of a king or queen, who are chosen to ride for it; the winning sex commencing hostilities on the Monday, the other retaliating on the Tuesday; but in most places, little to the honour of their gallantry, the men take the lead now.

Sir, as I am a west-countryman, and little versed in any customs but those of my own immediate neighbourhood, I should thank any of your numerous readers if they would inform me, through its medium, of the origin and intention of this curious one; as I am by no means satisfied with the information given me by a gentleman, to whom, on account of his age and situation, I applied, that it was in commemoration of our lord's resurrection. Were such the case, much as I venerate ancient usages, I could wish to see this abolished, as, in addition to its appearing like a burlesque, and fitter to convey an idea of poor Sancho Panza's tossing in the blanket, the horrid oaths and imprecations attending the proceeding, give a stranger a very indifferent opinion of the veneration entertained here for an event the most interesting to human nature.

As it seems to originate in Wales, whither our most ancient customs retired, perhaps there is some little remains in it of a ceremony attached to the early religion of this island; as it was the practice of our first Christian missionaries to suffer the converts to retain as much of the former ceremonies and usages

which

which they were attached to, as was consistent with the spirit and purity of our benevolent religion. In that case it may be classed with the May-games of our island, or the hill-fires of the Irish; and some very learned person may trace its introduction to the Phœnicians: indeed, Mr. Editor, it is impossible to say how far my question may lead; but at all events, it is pretty well for you in the metropolis that it is not in the possession of your *canaille*, or even in that of your *poissardes* at Billingsgate; for, though it would not affect your beaux or fashionables, who scarcely know what a forenoon is, the consequence might not be pleasant to some of the rest.

Your's, &c.

INQUISITOR.

Liverpool, April, 1807.

The BOAR's HEAD.

THE following is from a manuscript of the well-known Anthony Wood, dated 1660:—

"There is a custom at Queen's College, Oxford, to serve up every year a boar's head provided by the manciple against Christmas-day. The boar's head being boyled or roasted, is laid in a great charger covered with a garland of bays or laurel, as broad at bottom as the brims of the charger. When the first course is served up in the refectory, on Christmas-day, in the said college, the manciple brings the said boar's head from the kitchen up to the high table, accompanied with one of the tabarders, who lays his hand on the charger. The tabarder then sings a song, and when he comes to the chorus, all the scholars that are in the refectory join together and sing it:—

The boar's head in hand bear I,
Bedeck'd with bays and rosemary,
And I pray you masters merry be
Quotquot estis in convivio.

CHORUS.

Caput apri defero,
Reddens laudeas Domino.

The boar's head, as I understand,
Is the bravest dish in all the land,
Being thus bedeck'd with a gay garland;
Let us *servire convivio.*

CHORUS.

Caput apri defero,
Reddens laudes Domino.

Our steward has provided this
In honour of the king of bliss,
Which on this day to be served is
In *reginensi atrio.*

CHORUS.

Caput apri defero,
Reddens laudes Domino.

PROVIDENTIAL PRESERVATION.

MR. S——, surgeon, in Derbyshire, a gentleman of extensive practice, which occasioned his attendance on patients at houses dispersed in the country, considerably distant from his own residence, dreamed one night, that, being called on to attend a farmer's wife, who resided a few miles distant, he was attacked and murdered in a certain lane, which it was necessary to pass through on his way thither. The agitation of his mind, in consequence of this supposed attack, awoke him, when finding his alarm was nothing but a dream, it made no further impression on him, and he soon fell asleep again.

In the second sleep, the same horrible circumstance again presented itself to his imagination, and he awoke as before. He, however, went to sleep a third time, when another repetition of his terrific vision caused him to awake in such an agitated state of mind, as induced him to awake Mrs. S. to whom he communicated this singular occurrence: the relation of which he had scarcely finished, when a violent knocking at the door was heard. Mrs. S. very much alarmed, insisted that Mr. S. should not get up, on any account, and went herself to the window to enquire what was wanted. On which a man informed her, that Mrs. ——, (meaning the very person who was the cause of Mr. S.'s dream) was in labour, and also that Mr. S.'s immediate attendance was required. Mrs. S. replied, that Mr. S. was indisposed, and could not attend her. The man urged the danger of her situation, and the consequent necessity of Mr. S.'s going with him; but Mrs. S. telling him that it was very singular the person he mentioned should be in the situation he described, without having previously, as is customary, intimated it to Mr. S. whose patient she was, desired him to apply to some other gentleman of the profession, assuring him, positively, that Mr. S. neither could, nor would comply with his request.

The next morning Mr. S. had the curiosity to ride over to the house where his assistance was pretended to have been wanted, and found the good woman in perfect health, totally ignorant of the application.

Mr. S. is a gentleman of respectable character, both moral and professional, and is the father of several children.

ATMOSPHERICAL PHENOMENA.

THE ingenious M. Cornelius Varley has laid before the public some remarks on atmopherical phenomena, particularly on the formation of clouds; their permanence; their precipitation in rain, snow, and hail; and the consequent rise of the barometer. The inferences drawn by this gentleman are—

1. That no cloud can be formed, or exist, without electricity.
2. That no cloud can fall in rain 'till it parts with some of its electricity.
3. That in fine weather the earth must be giving electricity to the atmosphere by means of vapour, and in stormy weather the atmosphere must be giving electricity to the earth by means of vapour, rain, or lightning.
4. That in fine weather the clouds are separating, and in stormy weather uniting.
5. That electricity is the suspending power in clouds.
6. That dry air is a conductor of heat, but a non-conductor of electricity.
7. That water can exist permanently in four states, and temporarily in one only. Two of these are effected by electricity, and three without it. The first electrical state is that of cloud, which is so much charged as to become lighter than air at the surface of the earth; the second is a complete saturation of water with the electric fluid, which produces a transparent and elastic fluid, light enough to float above the highest clouds. The first of the three other states is ice; the second is liquid; the third, which is quite temporary, is vapour; for, as soon as the supply of heat, by which it is raised from the earth is withdrawn, it condenses, and returns again to the state of water.

A consequence of this theory is, that when a cloud loses its electricity in an atmosphere below the freezing point, then snow is produced, for the vapours will be frozen in the act of uniting: and particles of moisture united into rain, and passing through a cold region in their descent to the earth, will come down in the form of hail.

A QUESTION, *by T. Bullock, of St. Columb.*

GIVEN the dimensions of a cask, in form of the middle frustum of a parabolic spindle, as follows, viz. bung diameter 30 inches, head diameter 22 inches, and content = 97.26176 wine gallons. Required the length?

Answer, by J. Joyce, of Tiverton, to G. F. A.'s Rebus, inserted April 20.

YOUR rebus, Sir, I think I can explain,
'Tis XATIVA, an obscure town in Spain.

Answer, by J. Woodman, of North Curry, to P. Gove's Charade, inserted April 20.

A FISH-HOOK will, if right I guess,
Your mystic lines, Sir, sure express.

☞ We have received the like answer from W. D. Champion, of Bridgewater; J. A. Dyer, of Taunton; J. R. S. R. of Awliscombe; G. A. F. Arden; W. D. of Bristol; a serjeant of the Broadhembury volunteers; and R. Gidley, of Dean Prior.

Answer, by R. Loosemore, of Tiverton, to J. A. Dyer's Rebus, inserted May 4.

I Think I have the answer hit,
The word IMPROPER means unfit.

*** Similar answers have been received from H. Easter, of Poole; H. Ellis, of Exeter; J. R. S. R. of Awliscombe; J. Woodman, of North Curry; a serjeant of the Broadhembury volunteers; W. D. of Bristol; J. Joyce, of Tiverton; J. Ryan; J. C. of Ottery; J. Whitnell, of Street; a private of the Meneage volunteers; and W. H. H. of Totnes.

A CHARADE, *by J. Ryan.*

AN interjection first disclose;
My whole the second often shows;
It is a plant, ye bards of fame,
Now meditate, and find its name.

A REBUS, *by J. Joyce, of Tiverton.*

A Hebrew measure, first of all obtain;
A ceremony will my next explain;
You can, no doubt, from past experience say,
The school-boy feels my last for going to play;
If you the order change, and right combine,
A patrimony you will soon define.

A REBUS, *by W. D. of Bristol.*

THE shepherd's found in yonder ground,
Amidst his fleecy care;
Where oftentimes my first is found
Which you will soon declare,

A correspondent next define,
In this rebusian page;
And last of all a pleasant wine
Your notice must engage.

If you these sev'ral parts cement,
My pious whole you'll view,
Whose heart is on contrition bent,
So now I bid adieu!

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

CHRIST's ASCENSION.

FROM Bozrah's plains, brinded with blood,
The saviour comes, by victory crown'd;
He mounts the chariot of a cloud,
While angels shout, and trumpets sound:
Lo! Messiah lives to reign,
His church to bless, and rights maintain.

His captive foes dejected mourn,
With trophies won, in triumph led;
They grace his conquest, and return,
From the cold regions of the dead.
Lo! Messiah &c.

He rescued man, and man befriends,
And will to Heaven his subjects raise;
In matchless grandeur he ascends,
And choral pæans sound his praise.
Lo! Messiah &c.

Triumphal arches, wreath'd with gold,
Profuse magnificence display:
And ports celestial wide unfold,
To make the mighty conqueror way.
Lo! Messiah &c.

He passes in his azure car
The chrystal entrance of the sky;
He lives the champion of the war,
Unfurl'd his purple banners fly.
Lo! Messiah &c.

Into pavilion'd urim gone,
Where music sounds from ev'ry string,
He now resumes his splendid throne,
While saints and angels sweetly sing.
Lo! Messiah lives to reign,
His church to bless, and rights maintain.

Dock, Devon.

The FILBERD TREE: *A* RUSTIC PLAINT.

By T. PARK, *Esq.*

I Had a little comely cot,
As neat as cottage well could be;
And near it rose a garden-plot,
Where flourish'd one embowering tree—
Ah! twas a tree of trees to me.

To my neat cot it gave a name,
A filberd was my favourite tree;
Who saw it prais'd it into fame,

And

And ev'n my neighbours, envying me,
Confess'd it was a goodly tree.

Its graceful branches o'er my head
Waved wide an arched canopy;
And its broad leaves benignly spread
A fan of green embroidery,
That shaded all my family.

It was a screen from wind or sun,
A veil from curiosity;
And when its summer bloom was gone,
We still could feast, with social glee,
On its autumnal fruitery.

E'en winter oft has seen it gay,
With fretted frost-work spangled o'er;
While pendants droop'd from every spray,
And crimson budlets told once more,
That spring would all its charms restore!

But I have left that comely cot,
Where blossoms now my favourite tree:
And I possess an ampler spot,
Which boasts of more variety,
And more enraptures all but me.

For what I once have help'd to rear,
Have treasur'd with a guardian eye,
To my weak heart must still be dear,
To my fond thought will oft be nigh—
Thee, filberd, still for thee I sigh!

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

To the PRINTER,

SIR, *June* 1, 1807.

AN odd occurrence lately took place in this neighbourhood, which gave rise to the following impromptu.

A clergyman found it necessary to reprimand his clerk, who had long called for it; the latter, however, being of a mulish turn, grew restive, and kicked at all advice, and so managed as to put the case into the spiritual-court, where his master (who is a truly pious and faithful minister) now appears as defendant.

If you could find room for the following impromptu in your valuable Entertainer, you would confer a favour on an old correspondent, and

A CONSTANT READER.

IMPROMPTU.

SCRIPTURE relates—It came to pass,
That angry Balaam smote his ass;
And that the brute, with speech endued,
His master to his face withstood:
But it was meant for Balaam's good.
Just the reverse of such a case,
They talk of, at a watering place—
A FAITHFUL man of God was smitten,
E'en by the ass he should have beaten,
For tho' this ass was born with speech
Of the two kinds, 'twas question which
Had the most music in his strains,
Or which was most devoid of brains.